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17 December 1956

MEMORANDUM FOR: The Director

SUBJECT : Meeting of the President's Committee on
Disarmament Policy

1. Governor Stassen said that he had had talks with Ambassador Lodge in New York relative to procedures to be followed in discussions in the expected brief session of the UN Disarmament Committee on December 20th in response to a Soviet request for such a meeting and relative to procedure to be followed with respect to disarmament in connection with the General Assembly Session. He says that Ambassador Lodge is of the opinion that the U.S. should take the initiative in presenting a resolution on disarmament proposals for debate in the UN with the expectation that the resolution would be referred to a meeting of the Disarmament Sub-Committee expected for about March after the General Assembly is adjourned.

2. Governor Stassen went on to say that his staff had prepared a proposed draft of a UN General Assembly resolution on disarmament as a basis for discussion by this Committee on procedures. Typewritten copies of this draft were available. There was some brief comment and discussion of the first draft by various members present. All seemed to be in general agreement with the format. Governor Stassen proposed to designate a working group to study this draft and to prepare a revision to be considered in about one week. The revision, when approved by the Departments and Agencies, could furnish the basis for discussions with other Western Powers before presentation to the General Assembly some time in January.

This draft is in the form of a General Assembly Resolution, it refers to previous UN resolutions on the subject and then incorporates various U.S. policy decisions of recent date relative to disarmament. It seems to be entirely in line and the preparation of a revision should present no special problems and does not involve any special implications so far as CIA is concerned.

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3. Governor Stassen then remarked that at the forthcoming discussions on disarmament, USSR would probably propose measures included in the November 17th Bulganin letter to the President. Two of these are new and would require new positions. First, that aerial photography be established in a zone some 800 kilometers on each side of the line in Europe where the armed forces of the two sides face each other. Second, that armed forces of both sides be withdrawn from the European Warsaw and NATO areas outside of national boundaries. There was some discussion of possible U.S. position with respect to these two items and a committee was designated to draft a paper.

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5. In response to a question Governor Stassen said that U.S. policy on these matters, even if our Inter-departmental Committee reached agreement, would undoubtedly require NSC action. I will keep you advised of developments.

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L. K. Truscott, Jr.
General, USA (Ret)

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cc: DDCI